

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (original): Fluid construction mixture comprising a (i) sludge or tailing material (such as a dredged material), (ii) a binder, (iii) a binder retarding agent, optionally (iv) a foaming agent and optionally (v) a weighting material.

Claim 2. (original): Construction mixture according to claim 1, comprising a fibrous material.

Claim 3. (original): Construction mixture according to claim 2, comprising at least one fibrous material selected from the group consisting of metal fibres, polymeric fibres, glass fibres and organic fibres, preferably selected from the group consisting of organic fibres, more preferably selected from wood fibres, wool, reed, straw, dried grass (hay) and flax.

Claim 4. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein water is present providing a water to binder weight ratio of more than 1, preferably in the range of 1.5 to 10, more preferably in the range of 2 to 9.

Claim 5. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the amount of binder in the mixture, is in the range of about 50 to about 400 kg/m³ sludge, preferably about 75 to about 200 kg/m³ sludge.

Claim 6. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of fly ashes, cements and lime-based binders (such as calcium oxide, magnesium oxide silica, ferric oxide, aluminum ~~aluminium~~ oxide), preferably from the group consisting of fly ashes.

Claim 7. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the amount of sludge in the construction mixture is at least about

50% (by volume), preferably 50-98% (by volume), more preferably about 65-95% (by volume).

Claim 8. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the binder retarding agent is present in an effective amount to keep the mixture pumpable for at least 1 day from its preparation, under ambient conditions.

Claim 9. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the binder retarding agent is selected from the group consisting of polyphosphates, sulphonated naphthalenes and lignosulphonates.

Claim 10. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the foaming agent is present in an effective amount to cause foaming of the mixture, preferably in an amount of between 0.5 and about 5 kg/m³ sludge.

Claim 11. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the foaming agent is selected from the group consisting of alkylsulphonates and nitrogen containing surfactants, preferably a foaming agent selected from sulfohydroxypoly (oxy-1, 2-ethandiyl)-C10-C16-alkylether (e.g., sodium salt), cocosalkyldimethylaminoxide and sodiumolefin (C14/C16) sulfonate.

Claim 12. (currently amended): Construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the weighting materials, is selected from the group consisting of minerals with specific weight that is higher than the average specific weight of the mixture, and preferably from the group consisting of baryte, hematite and magnetite.

Claim 13. (currently amended): Method for preparing a fluid construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ comprising mixing a sludge or tailing material, a binder, a binder retarding agent, optionally a foaming agent and optionally a weighting material.

Claim 14. (currently amended): Method according to claim 13, wherein undesired macroscopic objects (e.g., bricks, bikes and the like, household equipment, packaging materials) are removed from the sludge or tailing material, prior to mixing.

Claim 15. (currently amended): Method according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein organic pollutants – in particular oxidising pollutants – are removed from the sludge, the tailing material or the mixture, preferably by aerating.

Claim 16. (currently amended): Method for preparing a solid construction material, comprising solidifying a fluid construction mixture according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~.

Claim 17. (currently amended): Method according to claim 16, comprising adding ~~a~~ a binder initiator to the fluid construction mixture, thereby causing the solidification of said mixture.

Claim 18. (currently amended): Method according to claim 16 ~~any one of the claims 16 or 17~~, wherein the binder initiator is added in an effective amount to cause solidifying within 10 seconds to 3 days after adding, under ambient conditions.

Claim 19. (currently amended): Method according to a claim 16 ~~any one of the claims 16-18~~, wherein the binder initiator is added in an amount of about 25 to about 250 kg/m³ sludge.

Claim 20. (currently amended): Method according to claim 16 ~~any one of the claims 16-19~~, wherein the binder initiator is selected from the group consisting of water glass and alkaline hydroxides (such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and sodium aluminates).

Claim 21. (currently amended): Method according to claim 16 ~~any one of the claims 16-20~~, wherein after solidifying, the construction material is granulated.

Claim 22. (currently amended): Solid construction material (in particular in the form of a brick, a block or a granular material) obtainable by a method according to claim 16 ~~any one of the claims 16 to 20.~~

Claim 23. (original): Solid construction material, according to claim 20, having a closed and/or open pores with a porosity up to 75%.

Claim 24. (currently amended): Solid material according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~ having a water permeability range between 10^{-4} m/s and 10^{-11} m/s (according Darcy), preferably between 10^{-4} m/s and 10^{-7} m/s.

Claim 25. (currently amended): Use of a fluid construction mixture as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-15, or a solid construction material as defined in any one of the claims 16-24~~ in providing an infrastructural element.

Claim 26. (original): Use according to claim 25, wherein the infrastructural element is selected from the group consisting of roads, parkings, airplane-landing strips, quays, seawalls, embankments, dikes, road embankments railway embankments, dams, sound barriers and land reclamation projects.

Claim 27. (currently amended): Infrastructural element comprising a pumpable construction mixture as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-12, or a solid construction material as defined in any one of the claims 22-24.~~

Claim 28. (canceled).

Claim 29. (currently amended): Use of a solid construction material as defined in claim 22 ~~any one of the claims 22-24~~ as ballast, in particular as ballast for a ship, counterweights at cranes or ballast material for underwater pipelines or underwater constructions.

Claim 30. (new): Use of a solid construction material as defined in claim 16 in providing an infrastructural element.

Claim 31. (new): Infrastructural element comprising a solid construction material as defined in claim 22.

Claim 32. (new): Infrastructural element comprising a pumpable construction mixture comprising a (i) sludge or tailing material (such as a dredged material), (ii) a binder, (iii) a binder retarding agent, optionally (iv) a foaming agent and optionally (v) a weighting material, a water permeable layer (1) (such as an asphalt layer), and a water permeable support layer, wherein said support layer comprises a solid construction material according to claim 22, a drain (3) for allowing water permeating from the upper layer (1) through the support layer (2) to be drained from said layers, wherein said drain (3) is in fluid communication with a provision (6, 7, 8) for removing a component from water that has permeated through said layers.

Claim 33. (new): Infrastructural element comprising a solid construction material (in particular the form of a brick, a block or a granular material) obtainable by solidifying a fluid construction mixture comprising a (i) sludge or tailing material (such as a dredged material), (ii) a binder, (iii) a binder retarding agent, optionally (iv) a foaming agent and optionally (v) a weighting material, a water permeable layer (1) (such as an asphalt layer), and a water permeable support layer, wherein said support layer comprises a solid construction material according to claim 22, a drain (3) for allowing water permeating from the upper layer (1) through the support layer (2) to be drained from said layers, wherein said drain (3) is in fluid communication with a provision (6, 7, 8) for removing a component from water that has permeated through said layers.